

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET/CDS

September 27, 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
 FROM: NORTH-SOUTH
 SUBJECT: Evening Report (Thornton)

South Africa/Namibia

P. W. Botha is the front-runner in the election sweepstakes; we will know tomorrow who comes out on top. In the short run (i.e., Namibia) it probably doesn't make much difference. (25)(x1) [redacted] that the SAG feels it can withstand an embargo over Namibia without much trouble since only the U.S., among major trading partners, is willing to sacrifice money for conscience. ConGen Johannesburg reports that the South African business community is fairly relaxed at the prospect and the stock market is booming. The DTA has decided not to send a representative to meet with the Five Foreign Ministers at the UN this weekend. Newsweek is planning a major story on South Africa for next week; I spent some time on the phone with one of their writers. I also spent considerable time preparing briefing material for the NSC meeting. (C)

Other Africa

Souchet of the Embassy and one of the French planners (here in Washington for talks with S/P) came in to discuss African matters. I made two points to them: (1) we were disappointed at the French attitude on coordination of resupply efforts for the Shaba force, and (2) we were taking a closer look at Equatorial Guinea and suggested that they might also consider if there were anything useful that they could do to improve the situation there. They promised to relay the point. (This follows-up on one of the tacit promises made to the Archbishop.) (C)

Don McHenry called to express his very strong opposition to granting a visa to Smith. I told him it would help if the Department would get its recommendation to us. He will prod Vance tonight. (U)

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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NSC Declassification Review [EO 13526]

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by John Powers on 2/16/2018

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-2-

THORNTON (cont'd)Pakistan

(25)(x1) This afternoon, I attended a [redacted] briefing on Pakistani nuclear matters; it is bad, but not as bad as I had feared. We should still be able to work something out on resuming relations. (S)

Agha Shahi attempted, but failed, to get Zia to quit CENTO in return for Soviet guarantees and unspecified assistance. (The Soviets have also been attempting to get Zia to adhere to the Asian Security Plan.) Zia discussed the matter with the Shah (and apparently the Chinese) and said no. Too bad for Agha Shahi, who is reported to be on the way out. At least we will be spared having him here as Ambassador, which had been a real possibility. (S)

India

A letter came from Desai. It doesn't do much to brighten one's day, but it is friendly as usual. (C)

Had a good talk with Bill Griffith about his recent impressions of India. They tally closely with mine; political doldrums, some economic progress, good relations with us, but with little of substance to them. (C)

Highlight of the Day

We will be shortly receiving an invitation for Mrs. Carter to attend the re-interment of Mobutu's first wife, Mama Mobutu. It promises to be second only to the coronation of Bokassa on the African social calendar this year. (U)

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Daily Activities (Pastor)

September 27, 1978

1. Nicaragua. Somoza accepted our proposal, and Christopher called the meeting this morning to discuss next steps. We have asked our embassies to bring the heads of state of countries in the region up to date, and in several cases, to designate mediators. We are also coordinating with the OAS an announcement. (C)
2. Argentina. Got whip-sawed from both left and right today on U.S. policy to Argentina. Gene Friedman of Yatron's staff, of the House International Relations Committee, called and asked whether it would be possible to give a license to Curtiss-Wright for \$30 million worth of spare parts for the A-4's to sell to Argentina. I explained that we had gone ahead with some spare parts for non-lethal equipment, but that we would be unable to go ahead with that kind of equipment. He tried to make the case that the A-4's were not very lethal, but I reminded him of the Beagle Channel dispute. David Rothstein, President of the Argentine-American Banking Association and an intelligent observer of Latin American politics, came in and talked about Argentina, about our Export-Import Bank policy, and about our overall policy. He also made the case for trying to back off and give Videla a little more breathing room. From the other side, I spoke with Jan Kalitski, at David's request, and he said that the latest decisions were outrageous and violated the spirit of the Kennedy-Humphrey Amendment. He was extremely upset over the fact that consultations had come so late, and I could sympathize with him on that one. He said that he could understand us wanting to go ahead on the Allis-Chalmers deal, but he thinks it is a terrible mistake to go ahead with any military assistance. He believes that there will be others in the Senate -- he mentioned Cranston and Church -- who would be very upset by this decision, and he asked whether the President had really focused on its implications for his over-all human rights policy. (C)

On the Export-Import Bank issue, I spoke to Owen, Spiegel of Christopher's office, and Shaefer of John Moore's office, as well as Jessica, to try to construct a good publicly defensible rationale for why we had reversed our decision. Ex-Im are reluctant to say they have re-examined the procedure, and after making a full circle, I returned to the present guidance -- that after discussions involving first, Secretary Vance, Newsom, and then the Vice President, we have expectations that a signal along these lines will be helpful in pursuing our policy. (C)

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In the meantime, our Embassy reports that the Argentine press has given wide play in the last few days to recent disappearances. The most spectacular case is that of an orthopedic surgeon, who was abducted on September 18th by the Argentine Army. (C)

Significant Intelligence

Nicaragua. The Somoza regime was unanimously condemned by the Mexican Chamber of Deputies on September 21st; the United Auto Workers condemned Somoza, and urged President Carter to publicly call for Somoza's resignation. The U.S. Catholic Conference urged the U.S. to withdraw our military mission and recall our Ambassador. It also urged us to investigate reports of continuing arms sales to Nicaragua by our allies, and urged the USG to support mediation efforts. The Conservative Party of Nicaragua sent President Carter a letter about the letter which he had received from 78 American Congressmen soliciting support for Somoza. The letter said: "It is inconceivable to our Party ... that backward and disoriented mentalities still exist in the U.S. Congress, which continue to support and maintain that which has been precisely the cause and source of our political problems." Brazilian Foreign Minister Silveira told Secretary Vance yesterday that it should be relatively easy for the U.S. to deal with Somoza since he is not an ideologue, just "an owner of a country." (C)

Cuba. A Foreign Ministry official affirmed to an official from our Interests Section in Havana that Cuban troops would begin to withdraw from Ethiopia this month. (C) [REDACTED] five senior Cuban military officials were transferred from Angola to work on a permanent basis with ZIPRA. (S)

Dominican Republic. President Guzman called in our Ambassador to emphasize the seriousness of the economic situation facing his country at this time, and to reiterate the request he made to President Carter in his recent letter for some form of assistance either for sugar exports or for PL-480. (C)

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